

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Trooper Class 2007-A Graduates *Eighteen New Troopers Join Ranks of Highway Patrol*

MONTGOMERY — Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy administered the oath of office to commission 18 new Alabama state troopers during graduation exercises in Montgomery Friday, Sept 7. State Rep. Richard Lindsey was the featured guest speaker during the graduation ceremony.

“You have completed a tough training regimen at the trooper academy and demonstrated you have what it takes to be an Alabama state trooper. I congratulate you on your achievement,” said Murphy. “As the newest members of the Highway Patrol Division, you will provide valuable support for this department’s mission to protect the lives and safety of all who travel Alabama’s roadways.

“Remember that you represent an elite group within the law enforcement community – one that demands the highest professional standards of its members,” Murphy told the new troopers.

During the graduation ceremony, several class members were recognized among their peers for high achievement. Jonathan L. Gregg earned the Academic Award for achieving the highest overall grade point average. George W. Parker received the Highway Response and Driving Award for demonstrating a high level of knowledge and ability in defensive and pursuit driving. The Firearms Award went to Joseph W. Champion for exhibiting the highest level of knowledge, skill and safety in firearms training. The Fitness Award went to Steven W. McWaters for attaining the highest level of physical fitness.

McWaters also was selected as the class’s top performer overall. He received the Commander’s Award for exhibiting exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to Class 2007-A and to DPS, while maintaining a high academic average.

Class 2007-A is the second trooper class to complete a training program designed specifically for trooper trainees with previous law enforcement experience. Prior to reporting to the trooper academy, each class member had completed minimum standards training and previously had been certified as a law enforcement officer by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. While at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, they completed a 12-week trooper training program, instead of the regular 22-week regimen for recruits with no previous APOST certification.

for more information contact:

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

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Murphy said that with the support of Gov. Bob Riley and the Alabama Legislature, DPS is implementing a continuing hiring program to employ two trooper classes each year, with the next class slated to begin in October. He said those interested in employment as a trooper should contact DPS recruiter Lt. Karl Wade at (334)242-3428, or visit Public Safety's Web site, dps.alabama.gov, for employment information.

Upon reporting to their assigned duty stations, the new troopers will begin on-the-job field training under the supervision of veteran state troopers. A roster of class members and their assignments follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>County</u>
Carl A. Allen	Montgomery	Autauga
Joseph W. Champion	Montgomery	Elmore
Dexter J. Emmanuel	Montgomery	Autauga
Robert T. Evetts	Gadsden	Etowah
Aaron D. Flanery	Gadsden	Etowah
William J. Fox	Huntsville	Madison
Raymond Garrison	Mobile	Baldwin
William S. Gifford	Quad Cities	Colbert
Jonathan L. Gregg	Huntsville	Marshall
Ronald W. Johnston	Huntsville	Marshall
Jacob Z. Mayo	Gadsden	Etowah
Steven W. McWaters	Alexander City	Tallapoosa
George W. Parker	Decatur	Cullman
Steven W. Saint	Montgomery	Elmore
Lloyd W. Smith	Opelika	Lee
Timothy R. Snyder	Opelika	Chambers
Timothy W. Suggs	Dothan	Henry
Kenneth L. Thomas	Tuscaloosa	Greene

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